

March 1991

Free to beneficiaries

# MEAN TIMES

Publication of the Auckland Unemployed Workers Rights Centre

Vol.2 Issue 8

ISSN 0114-7943

50c

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**MARCH**  
of **ANGER**  
unemployed plan  
day of action

**HOUSING CORP**  
going, going...?

**DISCOUNT**  
**CHEMIST**

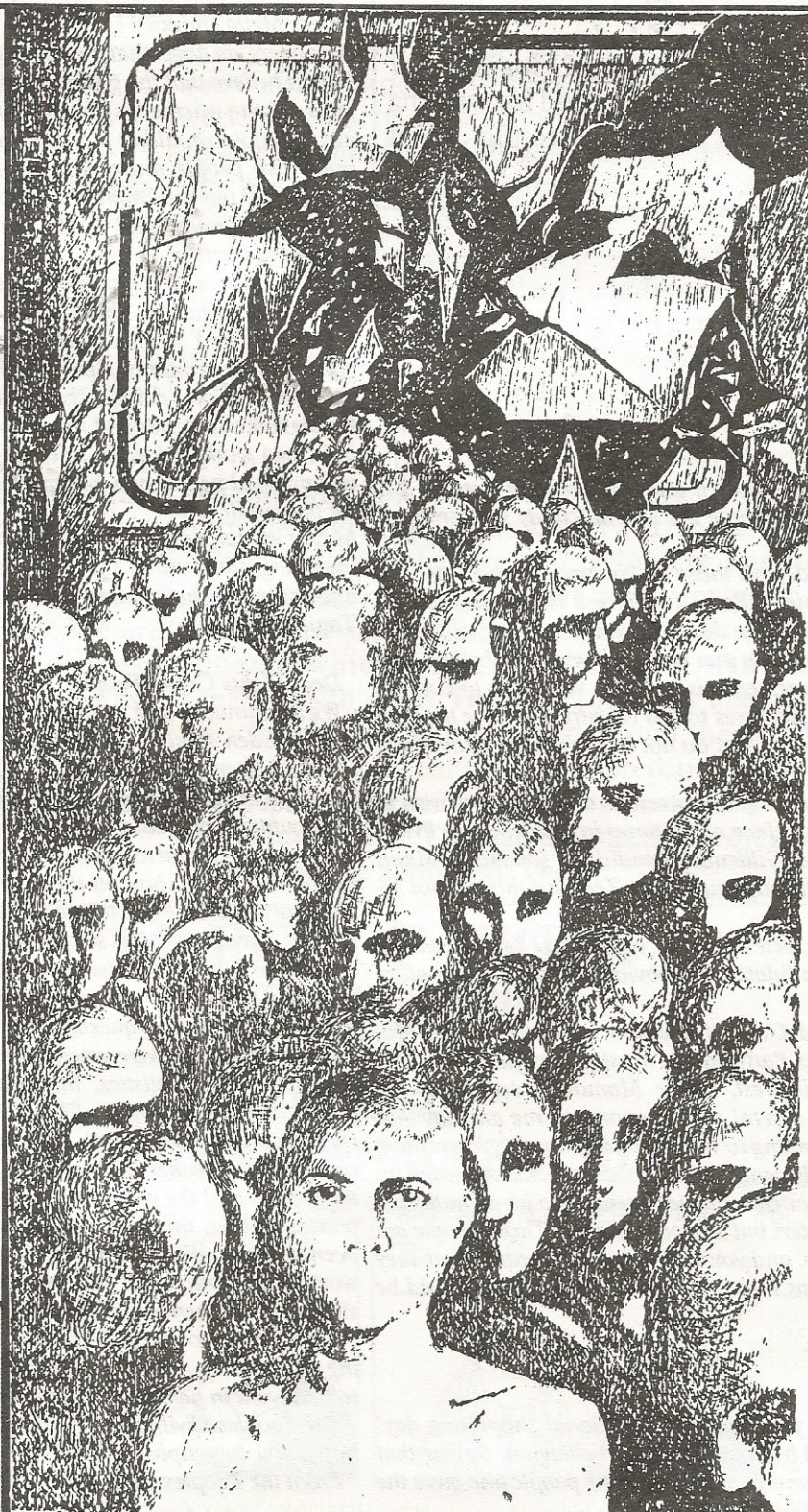
**RUTH**  
**RICHARDSON**  
fashion hit

**POVERTY**  
**PUDDING!**  
food for thought

**STOP THE CITY**  
Hamilton feels the  
cuts

**THE FUTURE**  
**OF N.Z.S**  
**ELDERLY**  
**REVEALED**

**NB** articles do not  
necessarily represent  
the position of the  
Auckland Unemployed  
Workers' Rights  
Centre.



**M**  
**A**  
**R**  
**C**  
**H**  
  
**O**  
**F**  
  
**A**  
**N**  
**G**  
**E**  
**R**



## Maggot of the Month



**Ruth Richardson, Minister of Finance** - for creating the indecent society, and for wearing orange and blue at a public meeting. Bad taste Ruth!.

**POST**

Dear Editor,

I would like it very much if you could outline just why it is that you choose to include the McGillicuddy supporters as non voters?

I am writing to defend those 10,000 people who voted the McGillicuddy Serious Party. I believe it is discourteous for you to state that our vote doesn't count.

We voted for the party that best supported our beliefs, and as your article expressed it is better to vote than to cop-out and not vote. We pay taxes to this country and have the right to choose our leaders, you do not have the right to overlook our values.

To some the great leap backwards is a lifestyle they wish to pursue, especially in face of the times in which we are living.

There were 58 McGillicuddy candidates (including Maori representation) throughout New Zealand, this is not irrelevant.

Our candidates recieved more votes in 41 seats than apparent serious candidates, it is obvious we are a viable alternative.

This is the third General Election contested by the McGillicuddy Serious Party and its most successful.

As a point of interest, at the Manurewa seat meet the candidates I had several people approach me and say that they were not intending to vote, but now that they knew there was a McGillicuddy candidate they would. This happened up and down the country, we never intended to be an outlet for the best protest voters but it appears we are. Those people are voicing their views, and you are choosing to ignore what they are saying. Perhaps their message is the one you should be reporting.

Yours, D. Craig.

Dear editor

I am writing to you about the "National shoplifting day" recently suggested by some idiot in Wellington. Saying that sort of thing only antagonizes the wrong people and gives the

media a chance to have a go at all beneficiaries and low income earners. Small businesses are not the enemy of the unemployed, many unemployed ran their own businesses until a couple of years ago. However I do realise that many people simply cannot survive on the benefits that they get, let alone what they will be receiving after April 1st. People often are forced to "liberate" food simply to feed their children and the sooner govt wakes up to this the better for everyone. In the meantime, if you have to shoplift to eat, why not do it to a big multi-national supermarket, they can afford it, especially with the shit pay they give to the teenagers working for them, and there's less chance of getting caught.

yours etc.

Lynil Spider

Dear MeanTimes,

I am angry, an anger that fluctuates between despair and fury. I don't believe that the government or the average bystander gives a damn whether or why we march at all. But that doesn't mean that we shouldn't publicly show our feelings, if we can make five people aware it is worth the effort. We protest together for our own morale because we have to keep strong within our groups and hold on to our opinions without reserve.

I believe it is time to be unreasonable, the politicians have no regard for our future. They are unreasonable, immoral, untrustworthy and they treat us like scum. Unemployment is good for their economy, it provides market flexibility which is good for their ever rising wage packets. The average worker's hourly rate will lower and these low paid jobs will be available, two workers for the price of one. These are the jobs unemployed people can be expected to take. Dead end jobs for bugger-all.

Maybe we can't put our predicament across to the public by marching it in front of their faces but when unemployment affects the armchair viewer perhaps the faeces will hit the fan.

Tania Tuesday

Dear Rights Centre People,

We the inmates have started a Peoples Civil Rights Party at the Mt Eden Prison. Our primary objective is to help the underprivileged and those unfairly treated have greater representation in the running of local and national government of our country New Zealand.

We were interested to read the newspaper article stating your nationwide call to boycott the population census and felt it necessary that the Party take advantage of the call inasmuch that we have decided to support the boycott. Of course our reasons to boycott the census would differ a little to other groups in protest but after a subsequent perusal of the form found the contents of questions too personal to answer.

On Thursday we were greeted by several officers from the Department of Statistics, they were officious about their presentation and help in filling out their forms. In reply several inmates took action and walked out leaving the official team to ponder their refusal, consequently the prison authorities and the census team weren't too happy with our protest, but we, the Party, felt justified all the same. For its been some months, even years, since the prison has provided work for us - and for all this time we are forced day by day to sit in a little concrete yard and do nothing.

Therefore in conclusion, if there's no hope of people funding gainful employment out there, what chance have we got to find work in here for \$2.50 a week.

The Peoples Civil Rights Party wishes you all the best and hopes you accomplish much.

From the Peoples Civil Rights Party.



## MARCH OF ANGER

**T**he Unemployed Workers Rights Centre is organising a March of Anger for Thursday, April 4th, the first benefit day after the social welfare cuts come into action.

Since the cuts were first announced unemployed groups from around the country have made submissions, have tried to speak to politicians and political parties, and have tried to get their stories in the media. But the government refused to listen, and on February 28th the cuts were passed in Parliament.

National will now be remembered in history as the government that introduced poverty into this country on a scale not seen since the last great depression of the 1930s. To take more than \$600 million from the poorest section of the economy will not create one job. Rather we will see spiralling unemployment as more businesses fail due to the decreasing spending power of people in this country. We are going to have crime and beggars on the streets, homelessness and prostitution, on a scale hard to imagine.

Some of the cuts have already taken effect.

As from March 1st many people face up to a 26 week stand down:

If a worker voluntarily leaves their job, or is dismissed for bad conduct, that person will receive no benefit for a mandatory 26 weeks. If a person does not 'adequately' seek work there will be a mandatory 26 week stand down. If a person receives a redundancy payment they will face a stand down of up to 26 weeks. People will be expected to live off their compensation before receiving any benefit.

Other cuts to already take effect include no back-dating of certain benefits. These benefits will now commence from the date of application.

The government has also put up prescription charges, and abolished the Contract Scheme which guaranteed cheap health care. They are also looking at further user pays in the public health sector.

On April 1st benefits will be cut by up to 26%. The Family Benefit will be abolished. The

unemployment benefit will be cut completely for everybody under 18. New youth rates will apply to people under 25.

On May 1st the government will introduce the Employment Contracts Bill. This Bill, in conjunction with the benefit cuts, will force workers into lower paying jobs, it will force hungry beneficiaries to compete for a steadily shrinking number of jobs. The effect of this will drive down wages and conditions and create a third world economy.

The government is doing all this in the name of the 'decent society'.

The Rights Centre encourages everyone who shares traditional New Zealand values of egalitarianism and caring for your neighbour to support the March of Anger on April 4. All other attempts made by unemployed workers to stop the cuts have been ignored, one of the only ways left to make our voices heard is through protest action.

## MARCH OF ANGER

THURSDAY APRIL 4

12.30

QUEEN SQ

DOWNTOWN AUCKLAND





## SUPER NEXT FOR CHOP?

In introducing the current round of benefit cuts last year, Finance Minister Ruth Richardson promised that these cuts were just the beginning.

For those who are wondering what more the Government can cut, the answer is becoming increasingly clear. National is zeroing in on the one part of the welfare state which has remained reasonably intact from the current benefit cuts - superannuation.

Prime Minister Jim Bolger has announced that before the next election he wants to see the raising of the age of pensions, the lowering of pension levels and/or the introduction of a means test. The announcement came at the end of a recent "all party conference" on superannuation, where both National and Labour agreed that superannuation should be cut but continued to argue over how to do.

Before the last election National bought the votes of many of the wealthier superannuitants by saying it would abolish the superannuation tax surcharge introduced by the Labour Government. National's promise is now seen as a sham - they will no doubt abolish the surcharge, but at the same time claw back much more in reducing rates and restricting entitlements than the surcharge removal will cost. The implication of National's election promises on superannuation was that pensioners would get a fairer deal under National.

The reality, now obvious, is that National intends to hack into the incomes of the old just as much as they are hacking in those of the sick, the unemployed and those parenting alone.



## CHALLENGE THE WELFARE CUTS

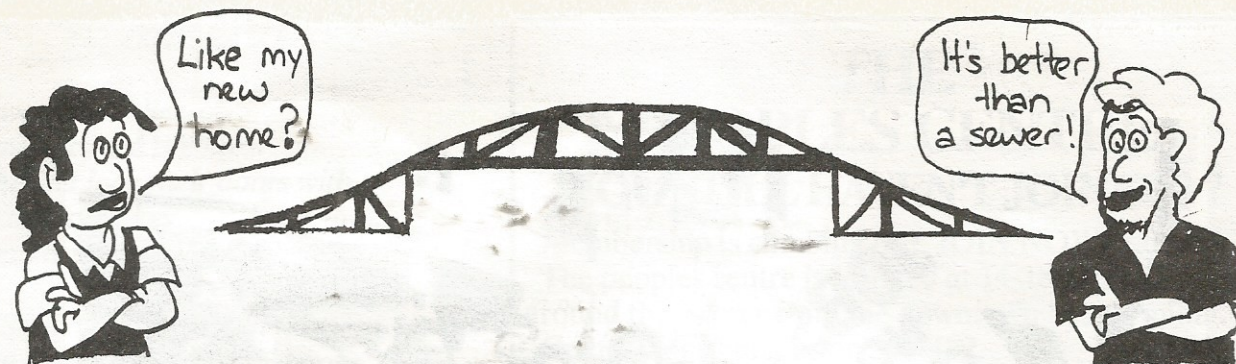
The Auckland Unemployed Workers' Rights Centre is encouraging people having their benefits cut on 1 April to challenge the benefit cuts by applying for Special Benefit.

Special Benefits have long been calculated according to a formula operated by the Department of Social Welfare. The Centre has legal advice that Social Welfare are wrong in applying a set formula - that they should be individually considering every Special Benefit application and assessing them on their merits.

People are being encouraged to keep records of all their expenditure over the next four weeks to use in applying for a special benefit. At the same time we are encouraging people to attempt to get the High Court to hold their benefits at current levels until their applications for special benefit have been finally determined by the Social Security Appeal Authority or the Court.

Anyone interested in doing this should contact Ivan at the Auckland Unemployed Workers' Rights Centre (Ph.399-482)





## HOUSING

The deathknell has sounded for New Zealand's largest public landlord, the Housing Corporation, which since the 1930s has met the housing needs of thousands of low income people, giving guaranteed surety of tenure. Confirmation of the Corporation's pending demise was "smilingly" given by Mr Kidd in mid-February when he indicated that the sale of the corporation is a decision subsequent to the first steps in privatisation. Going, going, gone....

Housing Network is a federation of groups involved in housing issues nationally its most basic tenet being "that every New Zealander has the right to adequate housing". For the past eight years Housing Network has closely monitored policy in the public and private sector, sought greater consultation with political decision makers and the corporation, furthered research into the causes and effects of homelessness, and lobbied the various Governments of the day. Housing Network previously had its time and work cut out putting pressure on the Labour Government for the preservation of the Housing Corporation as a state asset.

Housing Network found it very difficult to keep before Labour's policy makers the urgent need for a statutory obligation in the ongoing housing crisis. The Business Roundtable and Treasury plotted its conversion to a State Owned Enterprise, with the policy of direct delivery of housing assistance to be replaced by income supplementation. Helen Clark gained some respect for opposing commercialisation, and for her sustained efforts "to substantially reduce the level of serious housing need", while under pressure from Treasury, but the Labour Government would not address the legal responsibility of government to house the homeless, until Jonathan Hunt eventually gave an endorsement for a Statutory Obligation.

All communication attempts to meet and discuss housing issues, during the pre-election run

up, with National housing spokesperson Jim Gerrard were met with a fob-off. It came as no surprise then that National intends to follow the Rogernomic's theme by ruthlessly slashing away anything left in Labour's wake, despite their own loud criticism of Labour's SOE policies. After all, National had attacked homeless before, in a previous sell-off of state rental stock. National's patent disregard for housing is crudely illustrated by their planned housing assistance voucher, to be implemented in the near future, under the delusion that a copycat USA model is the answer for our social housing.

The fact that the streets of New York City are lined with people sleeping with housing vouchers in their pockets is hardly encouraging. Endeavours to point out the social injustices that must inevitably result from the housing voucher system have met an impenetrable barrier bordering on obtuseness from National politicians. John Luxton, the new Minister of Housing and a born-again free-marketeer, believes that anything new must be better than anything old. How will housing workers cope with the increased numbers of homeless? How can prospective tenants possibly cope with the indignity of shopping around with vouchers for shelter, or with the insults of discrimination, the substandard conditions, the insecurity of tenure, the hopelessness of being perennial scapegoats and victims of economic, social and political policies?

New Zealand Housing Network "deplores the National Government's housing policy". Housing Network acknowledges that the housing crisis continues and "we reserve the right to ongoing participation in the formulation, development and -if required- criticism of Government housing policy."

*Gwendolyn Brown, Member of NZHNW [Graduate of chronic Homelessness; and Retread Private and State Tenant.]*





children marching 1 February 1991, Queen St.

photo M.Allen.

## D.P.B Action Group Update.

The Employment Resource Centre has been able to secure the ground floor office of 14-18 Customs St. East for the DPB Action Group, and once the power and phone are connected they will be in full operation. The office is already furnished with furniture donated by the Broadsheet Collective women.

DPB Action Group Coordinator Judy Haldane and member, Jacqui Fill, went to Hamilton at the beginning of March. They met with the Women's Action Front women at the Hamilton Women's Centre (15 Milton Street, Hamilton, P.O.Box 4226, Hamilton East Phone 395939). They both found the meeting very worthwhile.

Judy says 'I was most impressed with all the different

activities, food co-ops, and actions being run and planned.'

'Women's Action Front visit the Members of Parliament in Hamilton presenting them with individual cases of women on the D.P.B. These cases show the persons budget, rent, cost of food and income. The typical reaction from the MPs is - "But this woman can't live on that amount of money!" Aren't we so lucky having these bright people running the Government!!'

One of the actions planned by the Women's Action Front is to get as many beneficiaries as possible applying for Special Benefits, and then for a Review of Decision if their application is declined.

The group also get together and swap skills, one of their women is going to teach others

how to weld, etc.

Judy spoke of similar actions that she would like the DPB Action Group to get involved in. 'We would like to get a clothing pool together once we are underway. We envisage having boxes of clothing sorted into women, men, girls, boys and babies.'

The DPB Action Group has received a phone call from Sandy Pye on the Coromandel Peninsula, gathering information about DPB groups. Judy and Jacqui plan to go and see Sandy as soon as they can.

If any readers have the time and energy to come in and give the DPB Action Group a hand, they would love to hear from you. For the meantime they can be contacted at the People's Centre phone number, 399 482.



### THE SAME KEY

*we are all lies  
and they are the liars:  
they all lock their doors with  
the same key  
and hold it above our heads.*

*Sometimes we reach it  
and it turns into a fish-hook  
at a touch -  
but more often it's held so high  
that it's hidden by clouds  
or obscured by the strong light of the  
sun;*

*or can you believe this?  
maybe the keys and lies and fish-  
hook men  
aren't real  
or maybe they'll rip us to shreds  
one day -*

*who knows?*

*in the meantime,  
we all stretch for the key above,  
and the only ones who can reach  
stand with hard feet  
on the faces necks and shoulders  
of the rest.*

**POETRY★PROSE  
and ARTWORK°  
WANTED FOR  
ANTHOLOGY TO  
BE PUBLISHED  
LATE 1991.★**

**SEND STUFF  
★ A.S.A.P. TO:  
COUNTER CONSPIRACY  
PRESS  
P.O. BOX 1447 °  
AUCKLAND 1 ★.  
ANYTHING °  
CONSIDERED.**

## THE PEOPLES CENTRE YOU STILL HAVEN'T JOINED? ?

Membership is climbing fast. JOIN NOW and save.  
The peoples centre is situated at 14-18 Custom St, just  
around the corner from the downtown bus terminal.  
Come in or phone us on 399-482.

### WHAT IS THE PEOPLES CENTRE ?

The Peoples Centre is a self-help employment co-  
operative offering to all unemployed and low income  
earners the facilities everybody needs.

### WE OFFER

- A Free medical service. One membership entitles you and your family to see our experienced, sympathetic doctor.
- A Free hairdressing service by Carl our resident hairdresser.
- A Free monthly issue of "Mean Times". The magazine that keeps you in touch with the issues, ideas and activities of unemployed and other beneficiaries.
- Free membership to the Auckland Green Dollar Exchange. Your chance to barter goods and services throughout the Auckland area.
- Access to all services of the Unemployed Rights Centre and the Auckland Region Employment Resource Centre, including
  - Advice on benefit hassles
  - Self employment
  - Business courses
  - C.V writing
  - Music, Street Theatre
  - Te reo Maori
- And Loads More.

### MEMBERSHIP ONLY \$1.25 PER WEEK

Just send your membership and auto-payment pledge form to

The Peoples Centre  
P.O Box 3813.  
Auck.1.

Or call in, or phone us on 399-482 or 399-682.

### THE FUTURE

In the future, with your support, we would like to develop other services such as psychological counselling; job clubs; redundancy support services; professional legal advice; food co-operatives and what ever else people need.

With unemployment now at 250,000 and the government withdrawing from many of its traditional support roles, we see it as time for both employed and unemployed people to start building their own services,



## DISCOUNT PHARMACY CHARGES

The 1 February 1991 saw a huge jump in chemist fees with people having to face increases of up to 300 % for their prescriptions. Prescription charges are now \$5 per item for children, superannuitants (but only those over the age of 65), beneficiaries, and full-time students. All other people pay \$15 per item, excluding contraceptives which are \$5 per item. On top of these rates are 'part' charges, an extra fee which has to be paid even if you have an exemption card.

Some pharmacies in the Auckland region have decided to help low income earners bear the cost of the rise and are currently offering a discount of \$2 per item (addresses below). Unfortunately, pharmacists discounting in this way do not expect it to last. They fear that actions the Government may take could end up with everyone being worse off, and they know that no chemist can afford to cut \$2 off every prescription. It appears that most pharmacies throughout Auckland are not discounting so far.

### Pharmacies offering prescription discounts:

#### Howick

- Howickville Pharmacy, Howickville Shopping Centre, Wellington St.
- Beresford Pharmacy, Picton St.
- Peter Giles, 53 Picton St.

#### Manurewa

- Peter Browne, 104 Weymouth Rd.
- R.K. Curtis, 153-155 Gt. South Rd.
- Eleanor Hawthorn, 157 Gt. South Rd.
- Henrys Pharmacy, 77 Grande Vue Rd.
- Manurewa Pharmacy, 198 Gt. South Rd.
- Southmall Pharmacy, Southmall.
- Wordsworth Road Pharmacy, 157 Wordsworth Rd.

#### Henderson

- KMart Plaza Pharmacy, KMart Plaza.

#### Te Atatu

- Sue Pharmacy, Te Atatu North.

If other pharmacies in the Auckland area are offering discounts let MeanTimes know and we will print it in the next issue as well.

Thankyou to those pharmacists prepared to put people before profits.





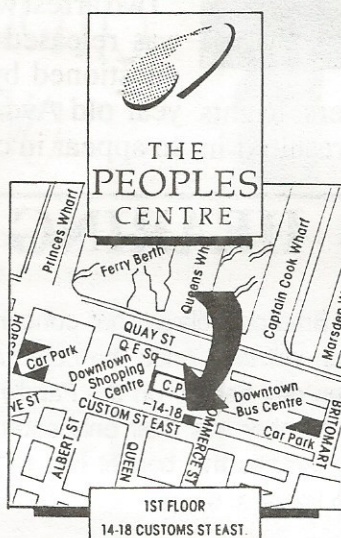
## JOIN NOW

For a Minimum Monthly Membership Pledge of \$5

## YOU GET

- ▶ Free G.P. Medical Service
- ▶ Free Membership to Green Dollar Barter Exchange
- ▶ Free Hairstyling and Cuts
- ▶ Help with DSW, NZES
- ▶ Education & Training Courses, Business Advice Self Employment Skills ... and much more.

TELEPHONE 399482 399682



## THE PEOPLES CENTRE

Is a new Unemployed Rights Centre project offering a whole range of services people need.

Your only cost is a minimum monthly fee of \$5.00 per month (\$1.25 per week).

Membership entitles you and your immediate family to use the

**COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTRE**  
and all our other services free of further costs.

The Peoples Centre is open anybody who would like to support us and use our range of services.

## Community Medical Centre Trust Update

A female doctor has now offered her services to the Medical Centre. This will be of particular interest to all women needing smear tests or breast examinations.

The doctor is experienced in obstetrics, which means the Medical Centre can now follow pregnancies right through to birth, and then continue to look after the health of the newborn child.

The new doctor will be available for one session a week - which will probably be a Friday morning - starting soon after Easter. Doctor Fernando will still be available for other visits as usual.

If you would like to see the new doctor you can phone the Peoples Centre in early April to make an appointment.

Phone 302-2496.



## ACTION UPDATE

### PROTESTORS DISRUPT MINISTER'S ADDRESS

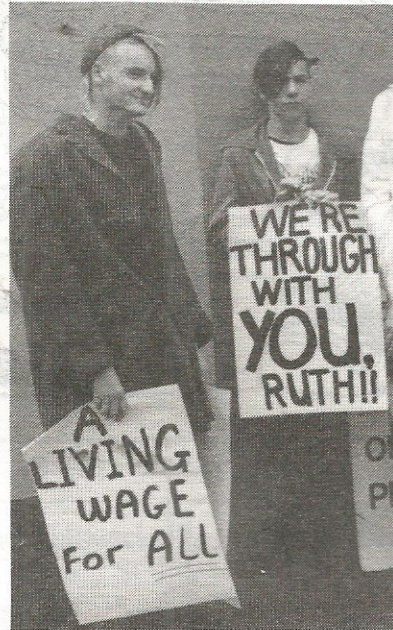
The Minister of Finance, Ruth Richardson was greeted by an angry gathering of protestors as she arrived to address a public meeting in Titirangi on February 28th.

As she stepped from her car the demonstrators surged towards her waving placards and hurling abuse with regards to the welfare benefits cuts.

At the mercy of the demonstrators the Minister tried desperately to enter the building, flanked by a few of her staff. Paint bombs were thrown in the direction of Ms Richardson, with one squarely striking her hip.

Once inside the hall, with blue paint splattered across her vivid orange suit, the Minister began her address, again she was prevented to do this by protestors. Under threat of arrest the protestors quietly dispersed as their demonstration had being a success.

Organised by the Auckland Ms Richardson's address being delayed by almost an hour.



Unfortunately for the Minister the Diplomatic Protection Squad she had requested to be outside Lopdell house for her protection, had awaited her arrival inside the hall, away from the main protest group.

The Minister's office issued a statement the following day claiming that her suit was 'ruined, beyond repair'. Speaking about the incident Ms Richardson said she was going to be more careful about her security.

Two arrest were made. A man was released later after being questioned by police and a 34 year old Avondale woman was to appear in court.

## SUBMISSIONS HEARING

*A seven member parliamentary team came to Auckland on February 11th to hear submissions on the Finance Bill.*

The representatives, four National party members and three from Labour questioned individuals.

The Auckland Unemployed Workers Rights Centre had three speakers.

### *Three Speakers*

Ivan Sowry opened his hearing by linking the benefit cuts to the Employment Contracts Bill. He stated that it will result in the erosion of wages and conditions of waged workers, and the increased exploitation by employers. The combined ECB and the benefit cuts and their repercussions will force the unemployed in to accepting employment contracts with unacceptably low rates of pay.

Sue Bradford relayed her concern of the hardships women will face once the cuts are in place. Many women rely heavily on the Family Benefit, and for a large number it is their only source of income. For many families this benefit has helped them through rough financial times.

### *Loud Applause*

The effects the Bill will have on youth was represented by Chris Nelson. He told the five parliamentarians about how once his rent and food are paid out of his benefit, he has generally only \$20.00 left. To a loud chorus of applause Chris read a poem he had penned. (See page 14)

The committee cross-examined the three representatives, with National trying hard to defend it's policies, while Labour patronisingly 'felt strongly and sympathised with the plight of beneficiaries'.

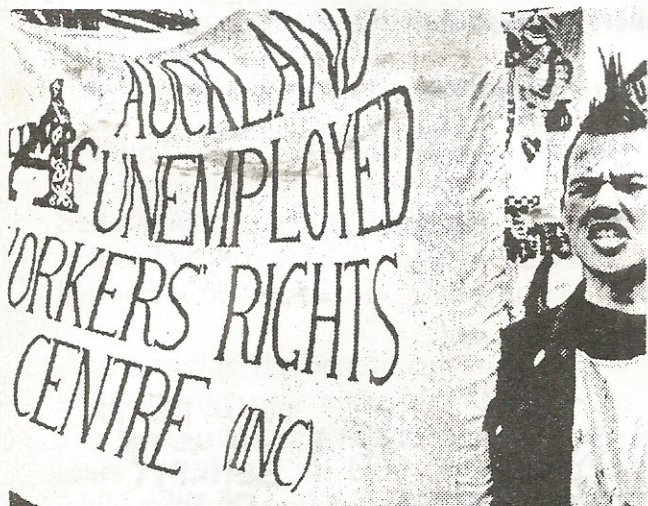


## ACTION UPDATE

# PROTEST BRINGS CITY TO A STANDSTILL

Unemployed groups and beneficiaries from around the country gathered in Hamilton on February 13th to march against National's benefit cuts.

In a procession three abreast the march of around 350 protestors, begun from outside the Hamilton Trade Union Centre, before moving down Victoria St. At major intersections the protesters engaged in sit-downs, stopping traffic and disrupting the city.



Many of the protestors were angry and their animosity was felt throughout the city, with the slashing of benefits as well as large corporate institutions coming under attack. Although the number in attendance was not large the demonstrators managed to bring the city to a standstill, occupying the streets for almost two hours.

A rally was held in Garden Place and a street theatre performance showed the hardships beneficiaries will face. Speakers representing many groups were given the opportunity to address the crowd, and one individual's feelings were expressed in a poem.

As the rally closed the protestors headed to the National party headquarters where a large group of people occupied the offices of the Waikato M.P.s. Individuals then wrote graffiti on the walls and defaced a photograph of Jim Bolger. Files and other papers were thrown out the 4th storey windows. None of the volunteer workers at the headquarters were hurt or in any physical danger.

The police arrived and the 100 occupiers were given an ultimatum of leaving the headquarters or being arrested. Leaving the building quietly, demonstrators felt they had gained a notable success, and their point had been relayed in a strong message to politicians and public alike.

Back at the Trade Union Centre the marchers were shown a video of the days events.

Groups attending were the Auckland Unemployed Workers Rights Centre, Hamilton Beneficiaries Unemployed Movement, Whangarei Unemployed and Beneficiaries Union, Te Roopu Rawakore O Aotearoa, and the Poverty Action Coalition of Auckland.

## LEGAL OR ILLEGAL

Under an international agreement, the Finance Bill in respect to the benefit cuts, may be illegal.

Unlike the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, to which New Zealand has only a moral obligation, we are legally bound to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which New Zealand ratified in December 1978. It declares:

'the States parties to the present Covenant recognise the right of every one to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realisation of this right ...'

It is obvious that the extent to which benefits are to be cut, clearly constitutes a breach of this agreement.

Unfortunately for beneficiaries to contest the legality of National's Finance Bill in regards to the welfare state, the cost would run in to hundreds of thousands of dollars.



# PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE 1990S

-----YOUR questions answered

published by the DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WARFARE

**Why is the word 'superannuitant' or 'senior citizen' being replaced with the term 'parasitic deadbeat'?**

*an unfortunate typing error.*

**Why will I have to collect my G.R.I. from Kaitaia in future?**

*Centralisation.*

**I heard I could get supplementary benefit and extra heating allowance because I'm receiving less than the minimum wage.**

*Well you heard wrong.*

**Why isn't it safe to walk the streets at night anymore?**

*It's your own fault-you're old, weak and feeble and remarkably easy to do over.*

**Why are aged people treated as second-class citizens?**

*Because you are second class citizens.*

**Why did I work for fifty years, pay my taxes and serve King and country for all this?**

*Life's a bitch...*

**Why is it no longer legal for two or more pensioners to congregate together in a public place?**

*To stop you blowing all your money on bingo.*

**I've heard that compulsory euthanasia might be introduced. What do you say to that?**

*We hadn't actually thought of that one but thanks for the tip. We'll certainly consider it.*

N.Z.S.W.90384/1992



## GOVERNMENT TIP SHEET No. 34

### HOW TO KEEP WARM THIS WINTER

1. Jump up and down a lot.
2. Skin the cat and use its hide as a fur stole. (For additional warmth, soak your feet in a bucket of its steaming entrails.)
3. Burn your family albums, portraits, certificates and references, letters from your children overseas, and your record collection
4. Urinate in a hot water bottle and take it to bed with you. (To avoid a build-up of dangerous gases, leave the stopper out.)
5. Keep your kerosene heater going all through the night, preferably in your bedroom. (For convenience, spare kerosene should be kept in buckets almost touching the heater.)
6. To warm water, place an electric blanket in your bath.
7. To retain the body heat lost through your head, try wearing a plastic bag over it.



### shadow bitch

I don't want to live this lie  
shadow bitch made me cry.  
So incestuous breeze me by  
the coloured flag, knot and tie.  
Screaming bell boys loud unseen  
creeping stitches, drunk, Jim Beam.

Lovers love game matchless gift,  
its so insane souls to drift.  
Blind infection numbing noise;  
government politicians  
playing war toys.

A Blue silvered scarf and shattered tears,  
blood runs thick for many years.  
See a soldier standing there what's the fight does he care?  
Is it so hard to see, this whole fucking lie,  
hypocrisy, power, money, greed, how much more blood do they need?

And now this, the benefit cuts  
so government can make Mega bucks.  
The pride of a dying nation the solo mothers  
tears  
while the fat hypocrites drink their beers.

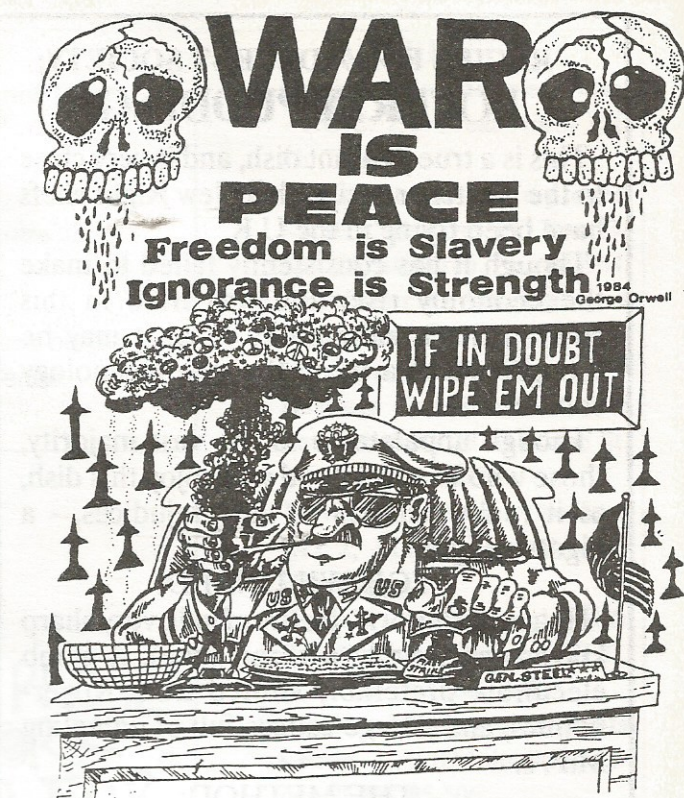
Starving sick children, violence on the street  
the Rich are laughing they think this is neat  
the Rich get richer and the poor, well they just  
die

**SO TELL ME BASTARDS WHY FUCKING WHY!!**

Ugg

### Does the Census Count?

The Auckland Unemployed Workers Rights Centre endorsed calls from unemployed and beneficiary groups around New Zealand for a boycott of the Census. Under a Government that is treating beneficiaries as non-citizens by reducing benefits to levels that people cannot survive on, many beneficiaries feel they need no longer carry out their duties as citizens. With the rejection of the many beneficiaries' submissions to the Select Committee dealing with the benefit cuts, it is obvious that the Government is just not listening. By increasing support for private schools while cutting some peoples' social welfare benefits down to zero it



is showing nothing but contempt for the people it is supposed to serve.

AUWRC therefore supported the call for people to show their anger through this deliberate act of civil disobedience, of refusing to fill in census forms this year. With no elections for another three years what else can angry and desperate people do, but engage in acts of deliberate non-cooperation with a State which fails to provide their basic needs for survival.

If you are investigated or prosecuted for failure to complete the census contact the Rights Centre for advice and support. Ph 399-482

Goodluck to any non-citizens out there!



## RECIPE FOR A DECENT SOCIETY; POVERTY PUDDING

This is a true peasant dish, and is very close to the Thatcher recipe that New Right chefs have been trying in the U.K.

Though it has consistently failed to make the economy rise, and was tried in this country in Grandmothers time, it may be thought worth a try in the new technology cooker.

Though unpalatable to the vast majority, those who like rich food will enjoy this dish, as it really panders to the prejudices, - a bigots delight.

### YOU WILL NEED;

Heaps of rhetoric, plenty of gall, very sharp knives (preferably a razor gang), a numb electorate preferably stuffed from Roger-nomics, and a large caucus full of unfeeling M.P.'s.

### THE METHOD;

In the secrecy of the cabinet room, making sure that not even your fellow members of the National Party know what you are up to, and following the Treasury and Roundtable philosophy closely, - do as follows,

- First award yourself a hefty pay rise, then, from a Welfare State, cut away the Family Benefit, save a few scraps in a small pot for later.
- Next, take the youth of the Nation and batter unmercifully, cut away 24% of their income, ensure they are not covered by a minimum wage (anyone under 25 will now serve as a youth, see Treasury paper for details).
- Now, take a struggling solo mother, hack away at least 13 % of her income, leave the kids to drain (If necessary separate).
- If youngest child under 7 kilos - force into work.
- Take G.R.I. and freeze. Raise prescription charges. Bash the Housing Corporation to raise housing costs.
- Now, Grill all beneficiaries, mash thoroughly and package as Dolebludgers.

For a real authentic peasant dish, serve Birch sauce, this takes away the Union saving flavour, and gives the dish that true third world flavour.

From RUTH'S COOKBOOK  
New Depression Publishing, Noddyland.



### WHOLEMEAL BREAD.

5 cups whole meal flour (some other flour can be used in part for a change. 1 cup Oatmeal

2 1/2 cups warm to hot water

1/2 cup milk

1 dessert spoon active yeast

1 dessert spoon sugar

Mix yeast, sugar, milk and water in bowl. Leave until yeast is working then add flour and mix until it is a damp mix.

Leave it to rise - the longer the better.

When risen bake in hot oven (200.C) for about 30 - 45 minutes

To tell when the bread is baked it comes away from the tin at the sides and when tapped on the top it makes a hollow sound.

SOLUTION  
TO  
NEW ZEALAND'S  
EGG  
SURPLUS?



## TO HAVE US DIE.

You say we have to tighten our belts.  
While our living standard steadily melts,  
you say we have to endure the benefit cuts  
you must be absolutely nuts.

You drag us into a war  
Instead of spending money on homeless and  
poor

Spend money on new war ships  
While Third World starvation grips.  
To eat this week or pay rent  
Your minds must be totally bent.

Good men and women die  
While you live a fat selfish lie  
You make us poor is it our sin?  
To have us die is your way to win.

Chris Nelson.



**FREE HEALTH CLINIC**

Doctor available at Community Medical Centre Trust  
Monday - Friday 9-4.30pm  
phone 771-563

But first you must join the Peoples' Centre  
For more information phone 399-482

The Community Medical Centre is located in the same building as  
the Auckland Unemployed Workers' Rights Centre.

### Subscribe to Mean Times NOW!

- Beneficiaries - \$5.00 for 12 issues.
- Waged Workers - \$10.00 for 12 issues.
- Organisations - \$20.00 for 12 issues

Write to "Mean Times"  
PO Box 3813,  
CPO  
Auckland 1.

Please make cheques out to:  
"A.U.W.R.C."

A subscription helps us to keep  
printing Mean Times.  
Donations are needed too.

Mean Times is available free to  
all members of the Peoples' Centre.

### CENTRE MEETING EVERY MONDAY 10AM

This is where we organise  
our week's work and share  
ideas about how to do  
things better.

Come along if you want to  
know more about us  
and/or help us with our

POETRY★PROSE  
and ARTWORK  
WANTED FOR  
ANTHOLOGY TO  
BE PUBLISHED  
LATE 1991.★  
SEND STUFF  
★ A.S.A.P. TO  
COUNTER CONSPIRACY  
PRESS  
P.O. BOX 1447  
AUCKLAND 1. ★  
ANYTHING  
CONSIDERED. ○

**ADDRESSES:**

- Combined Beneficiaries Union - T.U.C. 159 Great North Rd. Ph. 764-760
- Christchurch Unemployed Rights Collective - PO Box 13-527, Christchurch. Ph. 661-964
- Beneficiaries Unemployed Movement - 34 Harwood St. Hamilton. Ph. 381-793
- Hastings Combined Union of Beneficiaries - 202 Allerton St. Hastings. Ph. 82795
- Te Whare Awhina - Okaihau, RD 2, Mangamuka Bridge, Hokianga.
- South Waikato Unemployed & Beneficiaries Union - TUC, Tokoroa. Ph.. 886-6377.
- Southland Unemployed Rights Centre - C/- 209 John St. Invercargill. Ph. 85-506.
- Kaitaia Combined Unemployed & Beneficiaries Assn. - PO Box 577, Kaitaia.
- Nelson Unemployed Workers Trust - 108 Collingwood St. Nelson or PO Box 926, Nelson. Ph. 88-171
- Taranaki Unemployed Workers' Rights Centre - 98 Liardet St. New Plymouth. Ph. 75-993
- Palmerston North Unemployed Workers' Rights Centre - PO Box 1462, Palmerston North. Ph. 73-737
- Waihi Unemployed Group - PO Box 160, Waihi. Ph. 7555
- Wellington Unemployed Workers' Union - 3 Eva St. Wellington. Ph. 858-596
- Westport-Buller Unemployed Trust - 2 Fomblanque St. Westport. Ph. 8099
- Whangarei Unemployed & Beneficiaries Union - TUC, 7 First Ave. Whangarei. Ph. (089) 489-637
- Te Roopu Rawakore - (National Unemployed & Beneficiaries Movement) - 98 Liardet St. New Plymouth. Ph. 75-933
- See back page for - Auckland Unemployed Workers' Rights Centre.

**THINK GREEN GO TRADING!**

The Auckland Green Dollar Exchange is booming!  
You can trade almost anything - for example:

- \* Farm & garden produce
- \* Child care, sewing, gardening, housework
- \* Home maintenance, car repairs
- \* Teaching, eg: musical instruments, languages, math

For more information phone 302-1696.

**Join us and start trading now!**



THURS

APRIL

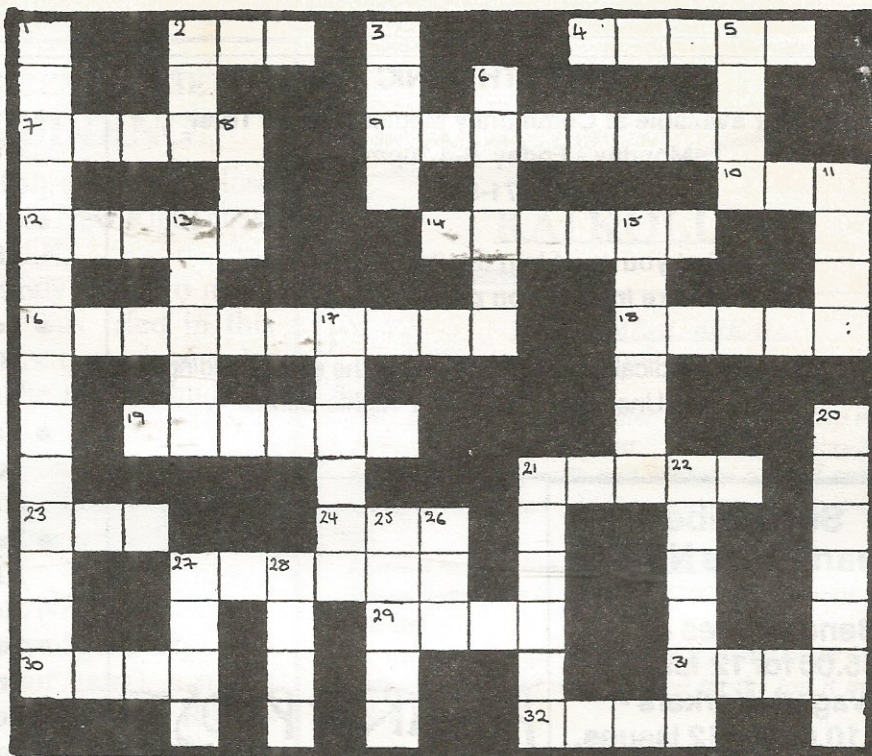
4TH

12.30 PM

QEII

SQUARE

CITY

M  
A  
R  
C  
H  
  
O  
F  
  
A  
N  
G  
E  
R

## ACROSS

2. Not much of this
4. M.P or walls of dirt
7. Adversary
9. M.P once childrens' T.V presenter
10. Use spade
12. Finances will be like this after April 1st
- 14 & 15 dn. \_\_\_\_\_ of unemployment
16. Hundreds sent opposing Finance Bill
18. Currency
19. Together
21. M.P, often confused with a tree
23. Ruth's favourite breakfast ingredient
24. Fish
- 27 & 13 dn. Commission for peoples rights
29. Small branch
30. Attire
31. Repitition of sound
32. Destroy

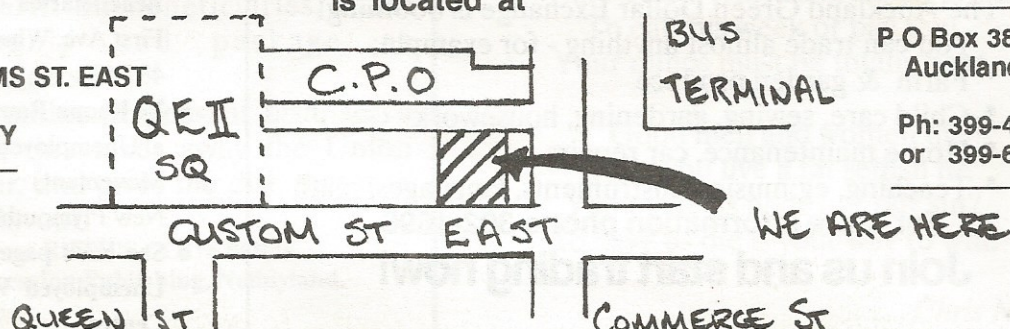
## DOWN

1. Now there is a maximum \_\_\_\_\_ stand down period
- 2 & 21 dn. Thinks he runs the country
3. Aid
5. Former mussel farmer, now an M.P
6. Movement
8. Alas
11. Sombre colour
13. See 27 across
15. See 14 across
17. Orate
20. M.P whose name rhymes with balloon
21. See 2 down
22. Former Minister for Social Welfare
25. Water mammal
26. Social Welfare (abbreviation)
27. Hurt (anagram)
28. Major trade talks held last year

# THE AUCKLAND UNEMPLOYED WORKERS RIGHTS CENTRE

is located at

1ST FLOOR  
14 - 18 CUSTOMS ST. EAST  
DOWNTOWN  
AUCKLAND CITY



P O Box 3813  
Auckland 1

Ph: 399-482  
or 399-682